

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/721,069
Response filed July 31, 2007
Reply to OA dated February 7, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A toner for an image-forming apparatus, which has a cleaning means with a cleaning blade to remove a residual toner remaining on a surface of a photoconductive member after transfer;

the toner comprises:

a colored polymer particle and an inorganic particle as the external additive,

wherein the colored polymer particle is produced by polymerization reaction and has a core-shell structure,

wherein the colored polymer particle has an average circle degree in the range of 0.95-0.995 and a volume average particle diameter in the range of 3-8 μm , and

wherein the external additive comprises (A) calcium phosphate particles or calcium carbonate particles having a volume average primary particle diameter in the range of 0.1 to 3.0 μm , (B) small-sized fine silica particles having a volume average primary particle diameter in the range of 5 to 18 nm; and (C) large-sized fine silica particles having a volume average primary particle diameter in the range of 20 to 60 nm,

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which toner has an absolute value of charge amount measured by aspirating and collecting the toner with an aspirating type charge amount analyzer in the range of 20-70 μ C/g in a toner layer formed on a developing roll when the toner is used with the image-forming apparatus, and

the average number of particles of the external additive, having a particle diameter in the range of 0.1-3.0 μ m, on the surface of the colored polymer particle, is in the range of 10-500 particles per single colored polymer particle.

Claim 2 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the colored polymer particle further comprises a parting agent.

Claims 3-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the colored polymer particle has such a particle diameter distribution that particles with diameter not larger than 4 μ m is in the portion of 3-9.1 number percent.

Claim 6 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the colored polymer particle further comprises a charge control resin with a weight average molecular weight in the range of 2,000-50,000.

Claims 7-22 (Canceled).